

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

OMEGA PATENTS, LLC, a Georgia
limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v.

FIRSTECH, LLC, a Washington limited
liability company,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:20-cv-01344-TSZ

**STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

1 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

2 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
3 produced or otherwise exchanged: sales information and other financial data; private account
4 information of customers; confidential research/development or marketing materials for future
5 products; confidential business communications with third parties; and proprietary
6 communications and reference materials regarding product development and design.

7 3. SCOPE

8 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
9 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
10 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
11 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

12 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
13 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

14 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

15 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
16 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
17 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
18 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
19 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
20 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

21 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
22 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
23 confidential material only to:

24 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as attorneys
25 within counsel of record’s firm and employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to
26 disclose the information for this litigation;

1 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
2 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the
3 designating party designates that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes
4 Only (sensitive confidential information that the producing party believes in good faith cannot be
5 disclosed without threat of competitive or other injury) and is so designated;

6 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
7 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A)
8 prior to receiving access, and such signed acknowledgement and agreement is served upon the
9 producing party with a current curriculum vitae of the consultant or expert at least ten days before
10 access to the confidential material is to be given to that consultant or expert to object to and notify
11 the receiving party in writing that it objects to disclosure of confidential material to the consultant
12 or expert. The parties agree to promptly confer in good faith to resolve any such objection. If the
13 parties are unable to resolve any objection, the objecting party may file a motion with the court
14 within fifteen days of the notice, or within such other time as the parties may agree, seeking a
15 protective order with respect to the proposed disclosure. The objecting party shall have the burden
16 of proving the need for a protective order. No disclosure shall occur until all such objections are
17 resolved by agreement or court order;

18 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

19 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
20 confidential material, or other litigation support service personnel, provided that counsel for the
21 party retaining the service or personnel instructs the service or personnel not to disclose any
22 confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any
23 confidential material;

24 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
25 reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"
26 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of

1 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
2 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
3 under this agreement;

4 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
5 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

6 (h) for material designated as for Attorneys Eyes Only, access to such material
7 shall be limited to individuals listed in paragraphs 4.2(a) and (c) through (g).

8 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
9 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
10 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
11 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
12 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
13 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,
14 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
15 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
16 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
17 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the
18 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.
19 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with
20 the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

21 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

22 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
23 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
24 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
25 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
26 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the

1 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
2 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

3 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
4 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
5 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
6 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

7 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
8 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
9 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

10 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
11 agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
12 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
13 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

14 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and
15 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
16 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" or "CONFIDENTIAL—
17 ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY" to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion
18 or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly
19 identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).

20 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties
21 and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
22 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony
23 after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the
24 transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
25 exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information
26 at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

1 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
2 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
3 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
4 the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
6 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s
7 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
8 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
9 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

10 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

11 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
12 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality
13 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
14 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
15 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
16 original designation is disclosed.

17 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute
18 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
19 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
20 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
21 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
22 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
23 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

24 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
25 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
26 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of

persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

(a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

(b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

1 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
2 MATERIAL

3 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
4 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
5 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
6 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
7 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
8 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

9 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

10 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
11 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and
12 summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

13 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
14 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
15 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
16 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

17 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
18 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

19 11. THIRD PARTIES

20 To the extent that any discovery is taken of persons who are not parties to this action
21 (“Third Parties”) and in the event that such Third Parties contend the discovery sought involves
22 trade secrets, confidential business information, or other proprietary information, then such Third
23 Parties may agree to produce confidential materials pursuant to this Order, and may designate as
24 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY” any documents,
25 information or other material, in whole or in part, produced or given by such Third Parties.
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1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

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3 DATED: 3/10/2021

s/John D. Denkenberger

John D. Denkenberger, WSBA No. 25,907
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98101-3029
Telephone: 206.682.8100
Fax: 206.224.0779
E-mail: john.denkenberger@cojk.com,
litdoc@cojk.com

8
9 Brian R. Gilchrist (admitted *pro hac vice*)
Florida Bar No. 774065
10 bgilchrist@allendyer.com
Ryan T. Santurri (admitted *pro hac vice*)
11 Florida Bar No. 015698
rsanturri@allendyer.com

12 Allen, Dyer, Doppelt + Gilchrist, P.A.
13 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1401
Post Office Box 3791
14 Orlando, Florida 32802-3791
Telephone: 407-841-2330
15 Fax: 407-841-2343

16 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Omega Patents, LLC*

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18 DATED: 3/10/2021

s/Lawrence D. Graham

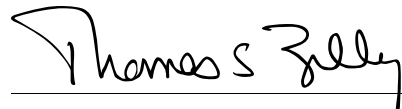
Lawrence D. Graham, WSBA No. 25402
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: 206.381.3300
Fax: 206.381.3301
E-mail: Graham@LoweGrahamJones.com

23 *Attorneys for Defendant Firstech, LLC*

1 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

2 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any
3 documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or
4 state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those
5 documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other
6 privilege or protection recognized by law.

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8 DATED this 12th day of March, 2021.

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11 Thomas S. Zilly
12 United States District Judge
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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
_____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the
case of *Omega Patents, LLC v. Firstech, LLC*, Case No. 2:20-cv-01344. I agree to comply with
and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and
acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature
of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item
that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance
with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____